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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/040,340 | 11/01/2001 | David R. Davis | P1756US00 | 2531 |

23531 7590 09/24/2003

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EXAMINER

PHAN, THANH S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2841

DATE MAILED: 09/24/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application N .

10/040,340

Applicant(s)

DAVIS ET AL.

Examiner

Thanh S Phan

Art Unit

2841

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 July 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 7-43, 45-52 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 44 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 15 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hobbs et al. [5,877,938].

Hobbs disclose an information handling case [figure 1], comprising a chassis [figure 4] suitable for containing an electronic component; an access door [20] which covers the opening and removably mounted to the chassis, the access door suitable for permitting access to an electronic component contained in the computer chassis; and a release mechanism [90] adjacent to the access door, wherein the release mechanism is manually operable by a single hand of a user to release the access door from the chassis, the access door separating from the chassis upon manipulation of the release mechanism by the user.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made

to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 7-13, 16-18, 20-26, 28-39, 47-50 and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hobbs et al. [US 5,877,938] in view of McMiller et al. [US 6,194,653] and Anderson [US 5,681,066].

Regarding claims 7, 9-13, 15-18 and 20-33, Hobbs et al. disclose a computer case [figure 1] comprising: an access panel door [20] having a support body [figure 4] which extends so as to cover an opening a computer chassis having a perimeter and four sides; a chassis [figure 4] with an opening on one side for mounting the access panel door; a handle [figure 5] mounted on the access panel door; hinging element [120, figure 4a] formed on the access door panel door and the chassis opening such that the access door maybe removed from the chassis vias the hinge when the access panel door in the open position [column 3, line 57 through column 4, line 8].

Hobbs et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for EMI clip mounted on flanges surrounding the perimeter of the opening in the chassis cooperating with the panel access door and a handle being squeezable together and mounted on the chassis.

McMiller et al. disclose a casing [figure 1] for an electronic component having at least a plurality u-shaped EMI clips [figure 5] mounted on flanges surrounding a perimeter of the casing [116, figure 1] to receive a cover thereon.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to use the EMI clip design of McMiller et al. with the access panel door of Hobbs et al. for the purpose of providing protection from EMI interference.

Anderson discloses a handle member [figure 1] formed of a support portion [12] supporting squeezable members [14] thereon and at least two engaging latch members.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to include the handle member of Anderson on the chassis of Hobbs et al. in view of McMiller et al., for the purpose of enabling one handed operation to release the access panel door.

Regarding claim 8, Hobbs et al. disclose a slot [figure 4a] for accepting the hinging elements of the access panel door.

Regarding claims 34-36 and 49-50, Hobbs et al. disclose the casing being made of metal covering substantially the entire opening.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to use metal to form the casing of Hobbs et al. in view of McMiller and Anderson, for the purpose providing additional shielding.

Regarding claims 20-26, the method steps are necessitated by the apparatus structures.

Claims 14 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hobbs et al. in view of McMiller et al. and Anderson, as applied to claim 11 and 18 above, and further in view of Casebolt [US 6,437,980].

Regarding claims 14 and 19, Hobbs et al. in view of McMiller et al. and Anderson disclose the instant claimed invention except for the use of a thumb screw mounted on the panel access door.

Casebolt discloses the use of a thumbscrew [figure 3b] mounted on a cover of a computer case.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to include a thumb screw on the panel door of Hobbs et al. in view of McMiller et al. and Anderson, as suggested by Casebolt for the purpose of securing the door in place and permitting quick release thereof.

Claims 40-43 and 45-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hobbs et al. in view of McMiller et al. and Anderson, as applied to claim 17 above, and further in view of Hulick et al. [US 5,825,626].

Hobbs et al., as modified, disclose the instant claimed invention except for: the specific shape of the hinge support.

Hulick et al. discloses a lockable panel [14] mounted to a computer chassis [figure 2] having a plurality of curved hooks [26] mounted in corresponding slots on the chassis.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to use the hinge support design of Hulick et al. in Hobbs et al, as modified, for the purpose of facilitating mounting and removal of the door from the chassis.

Claim 51 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hobbs et al. in view of McMiller et al. and Anderson, as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Baillie [US 4,195,867].

Hobbs et al., as modified, disclose the instant claimed invention except for the latch being self-lubricated.

Baillie discloses a self-lubricating door latch [figure 8, column 2, 45-55].

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to use the self-lubricating latch design of Baillie in Hobbs et al., as modified, for the purpose of facilitating operation of the door.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 44 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 11/01/01 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues:

[1]: Hobbs et al. fails to disclose the door being removable from the chassis;

[2]: There would have been no motivation to combine the teachings of McMiller et al. and Anderson with Hobbs et al;

[3]: Anderson is not analogous art;

[4]: Hobbs et al. do not disclose a tab projecting at the perimeter of the access door;

[5]: One of ordinary skill in the art would not look to McMiller et al. to modify the EMI sealing of Hobbs. et al.;

[6]: Casebolt does not disclose the claimed thump screws;

[7]: None of the cited references disclose the use of a hinge pin;

[8]: None of the cited references disclose the access panel door having a reinforcing member extending along its mid-section; and

[9] The structure of Hobbs et al. does not permit "allowable" placement of the handle.

Examiner disagrees:

[1]: Hobbs et al. teach the door being removable from the chassis [column 5, lines 52-58];

[2] and [5]: McMiller discloses an EMI seal. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been highly motivated to modify the EMI shield of Hobbs et al. with the seal of McMiller to completely isolate the interior of the casing from electromagnetic interference;

[3]: In response to applicant's argument that Anderson is nonanalogous art, it has been held that a prior art reference must either be in the field of applicant's endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the applicant was concerned, in order to be relied upon as a basis for rejection of the claimed invention. See *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 24 USPQ2d 1443 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this

case, both applicant and Anderson are directed towards an operating handle to open a door;

[4]: Hobbs et al. disclose the tab, as claimed, projecting from the door;

[6]: Casebolt discloses the use of thump screws [figure 3b];

[7]: Hobbs et al. disclose the use of a hinge pin [150];

[8]: Hobbs et al. disclose the reinforcing members, as claimed, [figure 4];

[9]: Hobbs et al. does not preclude the use of a handle to open/close the door.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

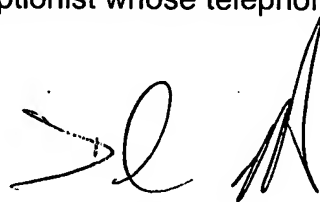
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2841

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh S Phan whose telephone number is 703-305-0069. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David S Martin can be reached on 703-308-3121. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Martin', is positioned above the printed name and title.

DAVID MARTIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

tsp